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1116 NE Strait Avenue
Topeka, KS 66616-1667

November 14th, 2012

Press Release: **2012 WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS DAY**
From: Chad Omitt
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service Topeka, KS

Winter Weather Awareness Day for Kansas will be **Wednesday November 14, 2012**. The National Weather Service, in conjunction with Kansas Emergency Management, select a day each fall to remind Kansans of the potential hazards associated with winter weather. Many people are often caught unprepared for the onset of snow, ice, and the cold weather of winter. Knowledge and preparation are essential to minimizing these hazards.

Additional winter weather preparedness and safety information has been posted to the website for the National Weather Service in Topeka. This website is a comprehensive resource for winter weather information. Please use the information contained here and on the website for newspaper articles, interviews and presentations related to winter weather safety.

The URL address is: **www.weather.gov/topeka**

The 2012 – 2013 winter outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is enclosed with this mailing as well as samples of winter weather material from the NWS Topeka web site. Use the web site all winter long to receive information, forecasts, watches, warnings and advisories for each county in North Central, Northeast and East Central Kansas.

For more winter weather information or for interviews, please contact the National Weather Service in Topeka on our **unlisted media-only telephone number at (785) 232-0814**. Meteorologists and staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

By promoting Kansas Winter Weather Awareness Day 2012, we hope to remind the public of ways to reduce the hazards associated with winter weather. Thank you for your help in this effort.

…ALL ABOUT SNOW…

This is official data recorded at National Weather Service observing stations in Concordia and Topeka. Information is likely to vary at other unofficial sites around north central and northeast Kansas.

…The Five Snowiest Years…

Concordia		Topeka	
1. 59.1”	1959-60	1. 47.9”	1911-12
2. 54.0”	1943-44	2. 44.4”	1959-60
3. 45.2”	1957-58	3. 43.2”	1992-93
4. 44.0”	1970-71	4. 42.9”	1978-79
5. 43.8”	1911-12	5. 42.5”	1914-15

	Concordia	Topeka
Average Annual Snowfall:	20.2”	17.8”
2011-2012 *Annual* Snowfall:	6.7”	3.1” (record lowest)
Least Annual Snowfall:	2.5” in 1903-04	3.1” in 2011-12
Normal Snowiest Month:	January 5.7”	December 5.2”
Greatest Monthly Amount:	23.6” in Feb 1912	27.1” in Feb. 1900
Most Snowfall in 24 hours:	17.2” Mar 16-17, 1924	18.7” Feb. 27-28, 1900
Earliest Measurable Snowfall:	2.5” Oct. 8, 1992	0.8” Oct. 9, 1970
Latest Measurable Snowfall:	3.7” May 3, 1907	3.2” May 3, 1907
Average Number of days with an inch or more of snow:	6.4	5.9
Latest Date of First Measurable Snowfall in the Season:	Feb. 10, 1923	Feb. 10, 1923

Kansas Snowfall Trivia:

Greatest yearly snowfall in Kansas: **103.6 inches** at McDonald, 1984.
Greatest 24 hour snowfall: **30 inches** Pratt, March 28, 2009.
Greatest number of days with snow on the ground: **152** at Hays 1992-93.

...TEMPERATURE DATA…

The Five Coldest Winters (Avg. Temp; Dec – Feb)

	Concordia		Topeka	
1.	19.9°F	1978-79	20.4°F	1978-79
2.	21.5°F	1977-78	22.7°F	1977-78
3.	22.6°F	1904-05	24.3°F	1904-05
4.	23.6°F	1917-18	24.3°F	1935-36
5.	23.6°F	1886-87	24.6°F	1917-18

	Concordia	Topeka
Warmest Winter Season (Avg Temp):	37.9°F (1991-92)	38.5°F (1991-92)
Lowest Temperature Last Winter:	4°F on Jan 21, Feb 11, and Feb 12	8ºF on Feb 12
Record Lowest Temperature:	-33°F Jan 8, 1886	-26°F Dec 23, 1989
Average Number of Days with low temperatures **at or below 32**°F:	121.8	114.1
Average Number of Days with low temperatures **at or below zero** °F:	6.9	5.4

Normal Daily High and Low:

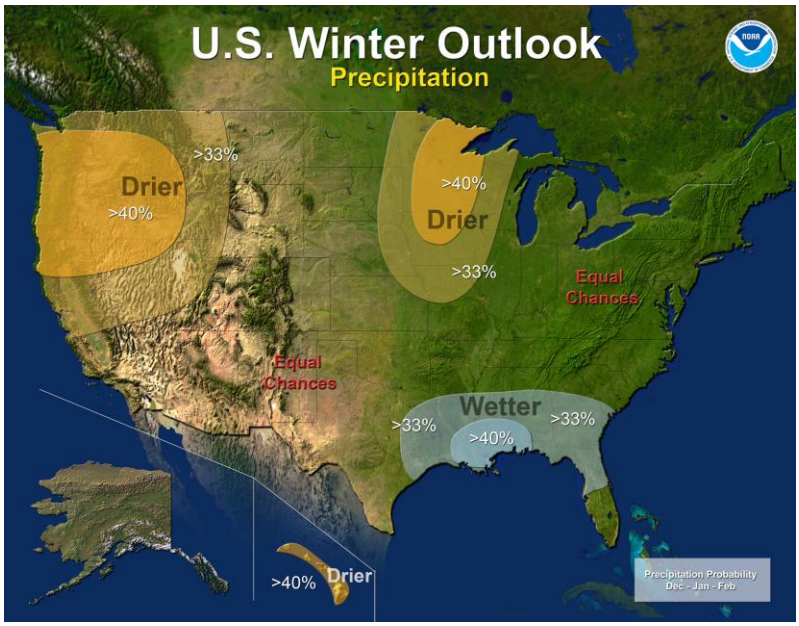
	Concordia			Topeka		
	DEC	JAN	FEB	DEC	JAN	FEB
High:	39.5	38.6	43.3	41.7	39.9	45.0
Low:	20.5	18.7	22.2	22.3	19.6	23.8

Kansas Temperature Trivia:

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Kansas was -40° F at Lebanon on February 13, 1905.

The Climate Prediction Center's temperature outlook shows that odds favor above average temperatures for the December-February period across the region.

CPC's precipitation outlook below shows that odds favor drier than average conditions across far Northeast Kansas this winter.



Winter Outlook Summary

- Making an accurate winter forecast is very difficult, as the interplay between El Niño, and other climate factors is complex and poorly understood. This year's forecast was more difficult than usual to make due to the uncertainty about what El Niño may do.
- Other climate factors can influence winter weather across the country. Some of these factors, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, a prominent climate pattern, are difficult to predict more than one to two weeks in advance.
- This seasonal outlook does not project where and when snowstorms may hit or provide total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon the strength and track of winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.
- What happened during past winters with similar atmospheric conditions? The idea is that by looking at previous "analogue" years with similar progressions of the El Niño pattern, one might anticipate what the winter climate might be like. This year is totally unique in the 63 years we've been keeping statistics on El Niño. Never before has an El Niño event begun to form in July and August, then quit in mid-September. Even if we did have a few analogue years, it wouldn't do any good, though--we would need a data base of at least 1,000 years of historical data to make a skillful winter forecast based on analogue years.

Winter weather points to remember and pass along

- Over 1,300 people are killed and over 100,000 are injured nationwide in crashes on snowy or icy roads each year. Just for perspective, nationally there are around 70 fatalities each year due to tornadoes
- Be ready for winter and all of the snow, ice and cold it can bring.
- 70 percent of the fatalities related to ice and snow occur in automobiles
- When driving on ice and snow slow down and pay attention! Wear your seatbelt!
- Visit http://www.kandrive.org/ to plan your plan your drive, view the roads and see the weather